

No. 41.

Allahabad, June 7, 1858.

No. 195 of 1858.

The Right Honourable the Governor-General is pleased to direct the publication of the following Despatch from the Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army, No. 359 A, dated 29th May 1858, forwarding one from Brigadier-General Sir E. Lugard, K.C.B., Commanding Azimghur Field Force, detailing further operations of the troops under his command.

The Governor-General offers his best acknowledgments to Sir Edward Lugard, for the ability and energy displayed in his operations, and his Lordship cordially concurs in the praise bestowed by his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on the troops employed.

No. 42.

The Deputy-Adjutant-General of the Army to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, with the Governor-General.

Head-Quarters' Camp, Futteghur,
May 29, 1858.

SIR, No. 359 A.

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-General, copy of a Despatch, dated the 14th instant, from Brigadier-General Sir E. Lugard, K.C.B., Commanding Azimghur Field Force, detailing further operations of the troops under his orders.

2. His Excellency desires to record his thanks to the Brigadier-General for the skill he has displayed in the conduct of this, as well as of preceding operations, and to express his admiration of the manner in which the troops have undergone the great exposure and fatigue to which they have been subjected.

I have, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Major, Deputy
Adjutant-General of the Army.

No. 43.

Brigadier-General Sir E. Lugard, K.C.B., Commanding Azimghur Field Force, to the Chief of the Staff.

Camp, Jugdespore, May 14, 1858.

SIR,

IN continuation of my Despatch, dated 10th instant, I have the honour to report, for his Excellency's information, that in consequence of intelligence reaching me that evening of the probable arrival at Peeroo of Colonel Corfield, with troops from Sasseram, to co-operate with me, I directed Lieutenant-Colonel Longden, Chief of the Staff, to proceed the following morning across the open country, west of the jungle, with horse artillery and cavalry under Lieutenant-Colonel Robertson, Military Train, to reconnoitre the country in that direction, and endeavour to communicate with Colonel Corfield, to whom I had written on the 4th instant, after crossing the Ganges, but of whose movements, up to this time, I had only heard indirectly and vaguely.

During the morning of the 11th, the special Commissioner with my camp, Mr Macdonald, Civil Service, received what he conceived trustworthy intelligence, that the rebels who had been strongly

entrenching themselves near Duleepore, and at the Bungalow at Chitoura, were preparing to de-camp; and as I deemed it highly important that a blow should be struck before they separated, I immediately advanced through the jungle with the force as per margin,* carrying nothing but spare ammunition and soldiers' rations; elephants laden with pucksalls of water accompanied the party; and to this arrangement I mainly ascribe the success of the operation and the safety of the troops, for the heat was beyond all description, scarcely a breath of wind penetrated the dense jungle, and many old and tried soldiers sank exhausted.

At the same time I communicated, by express, my intentions to Lieutenant-Colonel Longden, who, receiving my letter at Peeroo, to which place he had pushed on, leaving Lieutenant-Colonel Robertson and his party to guard the west, at once applied to Colonel Corfield for 2 9-pounder guns under Lieutenant Franklin, Royal Artillery, and 100 of Rattray's Seikh Sowars, and proceeded to watch the south-western portion of the jungle; whilst Colonel Corfield got the remainder of his force under arms, consisting of about 750 European Infantry, 110 Naval Brigade, with 2 9-pounder guns, 1 5½-inch mortar, and 60 Seikh Battalion, as per copy of report annexed.

At Duleepore the rebels first attempted to oppose our progress, and, after being routed by the line of skirmishers, which extended well into the jungle, and a few discharges of grape, they spread round, right and left, through the thickest part of the jungle, where our soldiers could scarcely penetrate, and attacked the rear flanks of the column, but the steadiness and quick fire of the companies of the 10th Foot in support, speedily drove them back, and we pushed on to the Bungalow, where another and more determined stand was made, with however the same result, except that the loss of the enemy was more severe. About this time firing was heard to the south, which we subsequently ascertained was caused by an attack made by the troops under Colonel Corfield, upon a party of the rebels who had established themselves in the villages at the southern limit of the jungle. Colonel Corfield, after driving the enemy from the villages and setting them on fire, returned to his camp at Peeroo, and it was not until the following day that I learnt of his co-operation, when I moved my party to the vicinity of his camp, as the heat in the jungle was unbearable.

The rebels suffered severely, as shown by several masses of their dead lying about, the extensive cordon of pickets, with which I surrounded our position during the night, preventing their being removed.

My casualties amounted to one officer, 10th Foot, (Lieutenant St John,) shot through the left arm; one soldier of the same regiment killed, and five wounded; also three men of the Madras Artillery wounded. After driving the enemy from their position at Duleepore, I sent the Seikh Cavalry, under Lieutenant Jennings, through the jungle, by a path to the east, to cut off any fugitives that might attempt to escape in that direction; this party re-joined me at the Bungalow late in the evening.

A strong body of the rebels, said to be under Ummur Sing, broke from the jungle after our

* Artillery.—4 9-pounder guns; Cotter's Battery; 2 5½-inch Mortars, Royal Artillery.

Cavalry.—Military Train, 80; 3d Seikh Cavalry, 75. Total, 155.

Infantry.—10th Foot, 570; 1st Company Madras Rifles, 85. Total, 655.